

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
John William LUMLEY)
Application Number: To be Assigned)
Filed Concurrently Herewith)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTION)
OF ITEMS)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the below claims as follows:

1. (Amended.) A method for selecting prints of photographs from a digital film medium, the method comprising:

(i) printing a selection sheet of thumbnail representations of photographs available on the medium to be printed, the selection sheet further comprising a plurality of selection fields, each thumbnail representation being associated with at least one selection field;

(ii) marking one or more of said selection fields according to a user choice of photographs to be printed;

(iii) inspecting the selection sheet to determine which of said selection fields has been marked in step (ii); and

(iv) performing one or more actions relating to the photographs stored on said digital medium, in accordance with said marked selection fields.

3. (Amended.) A method according to claim 2, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and one type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields designates a print format in which the photograph represented by said thumbnail representation is to be printed in step (iv).

4. (Amended.) A method according to claim 2, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and one type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields designates a number of prints of photographs corresponding to a particular thumbnail representation to be printed in step (iv).

5. (Amended.) A method according to claim 2, wherein one type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields is a "deletion" field which, when marked, designates that a particular photograph corresponding to the marked deletion field is to be deleted from the film medium in step (iv).

6. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, wherein said selection sheet is also provided with an identifier which is unique to the digital film medium and, wherein, in step (iii) said unique identifier is inspected in a preliminary step and, if the unique identifier does not correspond to a unique identifier allocated to the digital film medium, then the method terminates.

8. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and in step (ii) a user fills in one or more of the selection fields according to user choice of photograph to be printed, user choice of number of prints of said photographs to be printed and user choice of format of said photograph to be printed.

9. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, wherein marking of said selection fields in step (ii) comprises filling in said selection field so as to change said selection field from a light, unselected, condition to a dark, selected, condition.

10. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said step (iii) the marked selection sheet is scanned.

11. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, wherein in said step (iii) only those parts of the selection sheet corresponding to selection fields are inspected and the information

gleaned from the inspection is processed to determine whether said selection fields are marked or unmarked.

12. (Amended.) A method according to claim 1, the method being implemented by means of a printer including a scanning mechanism in a feed path of the printer, wherein in step (i) the selection sheet is printed on the basis of data input directly to the printer by means of a digital film media interface, the printer being arranged to print out said selection sheet which is thereafter, in step (ii), manually marked by a user according to the user choice, the mark selection sheet then being input to the printer feed path and scanned by the scanning mechanism so as to perform the inspecting step (iii), data obtained during the inspecting step then being used so as to enable the printing in step (iv) of said one or more photographs.

13. (Amended.) A digital film enabled printer, said printer including a print head, a first interface for reading data from a digital film medium, a user interface for receiving commands from a user, a detector located in a paper feed path of the printer, a processor for processing data from said digital film medium and user commands from said user interface, the processor being arranged to create and to print out, using the print head, a selection sheet of thumbnail representations for photographs available on the medium to be printed, wherein said selection sheet further comprises a plurality of selection fields, each of said thumbnail representation being associated with at least one of said selection fields, the processor being further arranged for processing data from said detector so as to enable a user marked selection sheet input to the printer via the printer feed path to be inspected and a determination to be made as to which, if any, selection fields have been marked by the user and to enable the performance of one or more actions relating to the photographs stored on the digital film medium in accordance with the marked selection fields.

14. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 13, wherein said detector comprises a scanning mechanism associated with the print head of the printing means.

15. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 14, wherein said scanning mechanism is attached to the print head and movable transversely across the feed path in response to signals from the processor.

17. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 13, wherein one type of said plurality of selection fields designates, when marked, the print format in which the photograph represented by said thumbnail representation is to be printed.

18. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 16, wherein one type of said selection fields designates, when marked, the number of prints of photographs corresponding to a particular thumbnail representation to be printed.

19. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 16, wherein one type of said selection fields, when marked, designates that the photograph corresponding to the thumbnail representation is to be deleted from the digital film media.

20. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 13, wherein said processor is further arranged to read a unique identifier from the digital film medium via the first interface and to create and print out, using the print head, a unique sheet identifier on said selection sheet.

21. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 20 wherein said detector is further arranged for reading the unique sheet identifier and, the processor is arranged so that if the unique sheet identifier does not correspond to the unique identifier of the digital film media, then the performance of said one or more actions is inhibited.

22. (Amended.) A printer according to claim 20, wherein said unique sheet identifier comprises a bar code.

Please add the following new claim to the application:

23. A method for selecting prints of photographs from a digital film medium, the method being implemented by means of a printer having a scanning mechanism in the feed path, the method comprising: printing a selection sheet of thumbnail representations of photographs available on the digital film medium the selection sheet further comprising a plurality of selection fields, each thumbnail representation being associated with at least one selection field; marking one or more of said selection fields according to a user choice of photographs to be printed; feeding the marked selection sheet into the printer feed path for scanning by the scanning mechanism to detect which of the selection fields has been marked;

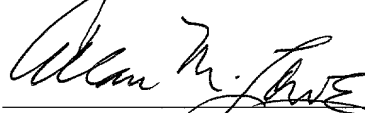
and printing photographs stored in the digital film medium in accordance with the marked selection fields.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims in order to remove the multiple dependencies contained therein and thereby reduce the basic filing fee. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant is attaching pages of the claims showing the changes made. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of this amendment.

Prompt and favorable action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited. Kindly direct any inquiries to the undersigned at the below-listed address and telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



Allan M. Lowe
Registration Number 19,641

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
1700 Diagonal Road
Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111

May 17, 2001

Preliminary Amendment

CLAIMS

5 1. A method for selecting prints of photographs from a digital film medium [media], the method comprising:

(i) printing a selection sheet of thumbnail representations of photographs available on the medium
10 [media] to be printed, the selection sheet further comprising a plurality of selection fields, each thumbnail representation being associated with at least one selection field;

15 (ii) marking one or more of said selection fields according to a user choice of photographs [photograph(s)] to be printed;

(iii) inspecting the selection sheet to determine which
20 of said selection fields has been marked in step (ii); and

(iv) performing one or more actions relating to the photographs stored on said digital medium [media], in accordance with said marked selection fields.

25

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein for each thumbnail representation a corresponding plurality of selection fields are provided.

30 3. A method according to claim 2, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and [a first] one type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields designates a print format in

which the photograph represented by said thumbnail representation is to be printed in step (iv).

4. A method according to claim 2 [or 3], wherein step
5 (iv) is a printing step and [a second] one type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields designates a number of prints of photographs corresponding to a particular thumbnail representation to be printed in step (iv).

10

5. A method according to claim 2[, 3 or 4], wherein one
[a third] type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields is a "deletion" field which, when marked, designates that a particular photograph corresponding to
15 the marked deletion field is to be deleted from the film medium [media] in step (iv).

6. A method according to claim 1 [any of the preceding claims], wherein said selection sheet is also provided
20 with an identifier which is unique to the digital film medium [media] and, wherein, in step (iii) said unique identifier is inspected in a preliminary step and, if the unique identifier does not correspond to a unique identifier allocated to the digital film medium [media],
25 then the method terminates.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said unique identifier comprises a bar code.

30 8. A method according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and in step (ii) a user fills in one or more of the selection fields according to user choice of photograph to be printed, user choice of number

[illegible]

5

10

15

20

25

30

13. A digital film enabled printer, said printer including
a print [printing] head [means (48)], a first interface
[(41)] for [interfacing with a digital film media (42) and
for] reading data from a [said] digital film medium [media
5 (42)], a user interface [(43)] for receiving commands from
a user, a detector [inspection means (45, 51₁-51_N)]
located in a paper feed path [(44)] of the printer, a
processor [processing means (47)] for processing data from
said digital film medium [media (42)] and user commands
10 from said user interface [(43)], the processor [processing
means (47)] being arranged to create and to print out,
using the [printing] print head [means], a selection sheet
of thumbnail representations for photographs available on
the medium [media] to be printed, wherein said selection
15 sheet further comprises a plurality of selection fields,
each of said thumbnail representation being associated
with at least one of said selection fields, the processor
[processing means (47)] being further arranged for
processing data from said detector [inspection means (45,
20 46, 51₁-51_N)] so as to enable a user marked selection
sheet input to the printer [(40)] via the printer feed
path [(44)] to be inspected and a determination to be made
as to which, if any, selection fields have been marked by
the user and to enable the performance of one or more
25 actions relating to the photographs stored on the digital
film medium [media (42)] in accordance with the marked
selection fields.

14. A printer [(40)] according to claim 13, wherein said
30 detector [inspection means] comprises a scanning mechanism
[(45)] associated with the print head ~~(48)~~ of the printing
means.

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

15. A printer according to claim 14, wherein said scanning mechanism [(45)] is attached to the print head [(48)] and movable transversely across the feed path [(44)] in response to signals from the [processing means (47)]
5 processor.

16. A printer according to claim 13, wherein for each thumbnail representation printed a plurality of selection fields are printed.

10

17. A printer according to [any of claims] claim 13 [to 16], wherein [a first] one type of said plurality of selection fields designates, when marked, the print format in which the photograph represented by said thumbnail
15 representation is to be printed.

18. A printer according to claim 16 [or 17], wherein one [a second] type of said selection fields designates, when marked, the number of prints of photographs corresponding
20 to a particular thumbnail representation to be printed.

19. A printer according to claim 16, wherein one [a third] type of said selection fields, when marked, designates that the photograph corresponding to the thumbnail
25 representation is to be deleted from the digital film media.

20. A printer according to claim [any of claims] 13 [to 19], wherein said processor [processing means (47)] is
30 further arranged to read a unique identifier from the digital film [media (42)] medium via the first interface [(41)] and to create and print out, using the print head

[printing means (48)], a unique sheet identifier on said selection sheet.

21. A printer according to claim 20 wherein said detector
 5 [inspection means] is further arranged for reading the unique sheet identifier and, the [processing means (47)] processor is arranged so that if the unique sheet identifier does not correspond to the unique identifier of the digital film media, then the performance of said one
 10 or more actions is inhibited.

22. A printer [~~method~~] according to claim 20 [~~or 21~~], wherein said unique sheet identifier comprises a bar code.

23. A method for selecting prints of photographs from a digital film medium, the method being implemented by means of a printer having a scanning mechanism in the feed path, the method comprising: printing a selection sheet of thumbnail representations of photographs available on the
 15 digital film medium the selection sheet further comprising a plurality of selection fields, each thumbnail representation being associated with at least one selection field; marking one or more of said selection fields according to a user choice of photographs to be
 20 printed; feeding the marked selection sheet into the printer feed path for scanning by the scanning mechanism to detect which of the selection fields has been marked; and printing photographs stored in the digital film medium in accordance with the marked selection fields.